**Math Reflection**

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In math this year we used the book series Connected Mathematics 2. This is very different compared to the other math series I am use to. Connected Mathematics 2 has eight chapters or lesson, each having its own book. Each unit is structured around a central mathematics idea connecting to the world in one way or another.

The units we have covered out of the eight are **Prime Time, Bits and Pieces I, Bits and Pieces II, Shapes and Designs, Covering and Surrounding, and How Likely Is It**. Our class has developed skills and discovered strategies and gave our opinion on them in class.

We write our answers out on grid paper rather than regular paper. Mrs. Mannon gives us this paper to help us set up or organize a problem to enhance our abilities to make conclusions and find the knowledge to figure out formulas and algorithms and other problems are worked out.

Different questions are asked at the beginning of the unit. Questions in Prime Time included ***“Why does your birthday fall on a different day of the week every year? Why is the same also true for New Year’s and Fourth of July?”*** Questions like these help us focus on the goals the author wants us become knowledgeable of.

In this series of books, we also have a different type of homework called applications, connections, and extensions, or A.C.E. The homework assigned by your teacher relates to the lesson taught that day. The applications help us understand what we could apply our knowledge to. The connections help us connect to the world. The extensions help us extend our knowledge toward different problems you could now solve.

A.C.E. examples

1. Applications: **For exercises 1-6, give the dimensions of each rectangle that can be made from the given number of tiles. Then use the dimensions of the rectangles to list all the factor pairs for each number.**

**1. 24 2. 32 3. 48 4. 45 5. 60 6.72**

2. Connections: **An Olympic photograph inspired a school pep club to design card displays for football games. Each display uses 100 square cards. At a game, groups of 100 volunteers will hold up the cards to form complete pictures. They are most effective if the volunteers sit in rectangular. What rectangular seating arrangements are possible? Which arrangements would you choose? Why?**

3. Extensions: **Which number is a square number?**

**F. 128 G. 225 H. 360 I. 399**

This year, we also had unit projects. My personal favorite was my special number project. I created a poster explaining my favorite number, 13! We had to come up with lots of facts that related to the number.

Examples of facts I gave on my special number project

1. **13 is considered and unlucky number**
2. **There is usually no room 13 in hotels because they think it is unlucky**
3. **13 is the date of my birth**

Each book was introduced with math highlights.

Prime Time Mathematical Highlights

**You will learn how to…**

* **Understand relationships among factors, multiples, divisors, and products**
* **Recognize and use properties of prime and composite numbers, even and odd numbers, and square numbers**
* **Use rectangles to represent the factor pairs of numbers**
* **Develop strategies for finding factors and multiples, least common multiples, and greatest common factors**
* **Recognize and use the fact that every whole number can be written in exactly one way as a product of prime numbers**
* **Use factor and multiples to solve problems and explain some numerical facts of everyday life**
* **Develop a variety of strategies for solving problems- building models, making lists and tables, drawing diagrams, and solving simpler problems.**

Also, we have a notebook which was a good way for all of us to get organized. Inside contains references, homework, assessments, and class work in separate sections. Also, it contains my vocabulary from fifth grade and I will take to my next school as well.

Everywhere you look you can apply math. This math series has truly helped me recognize my world as lots of math problems bunched together in to little space to fit them all.

<http://connectedmath.msu.edu/parents/welcome.shtml>

